



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held September 27, 2005, the Board took the following action:

33-E

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“Identity theft and fraud are among the fastest growing crimes Nationwide. Chief among these crimes is the false impersonation of public safety and first responder personnel through the misuse of government badges, insignia, and uniforms. Such crime threatens the public’s safety and homeland security.

“Last year, the California State Legislature enacted AB 1153, a County-sponsored bill, which made it a State crime to make, sell, or transfer unauthorized State and local employee badges and identification cards. On July 28, 2005, Representative Louise M. Slaughter (R-NY) introduced House Resolution 3604 (legislation similar to AB 1153) which would make it a Federal crime to knowingly transfer, transport, or receive an official insignia or article of clothing, including a badge, emblem, or identification card, of a Federal, State, or local government employee in interstate or foreign commerce. This bill, which is consistent with existing Board policy, is especially important because Internet commerce and advances in technology make it all too easy for criminals and terrorists to obtain genuine or fake identification cards, badges, or uniforms of public employees.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of House Resolution 3604 (Slaughter), or similar legislation, which would make it a Federal crime to knowingly transfer, transport, or receive an official insignia or article of clothing, including a badge, emblem, or identification card, of a Federal, State, or local government employee in interstate or foreign commerce; and

(Continued on Page 2)

33-E (Continued)

2. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation expressing the Board's support of H.R. 3604.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel

Letters sent to:

- Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter
- Each Member, Los Angeles County
Congressional Delegation

September 28, 2005

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
United States House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Slaughter:

At its meeting held September 27, 2005, on motion of Supervisor Gloria Molina, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors went on record in support of House Resolution 3604, legislation which you authored, which would make it a Federal crime to knowingly impersonate public safety and first responder personnel.

Very truly yours,

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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September 28, 2005

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0530

Dear Representative Becerra:

We are writing to urge your support for House Resolution (H.R.) 3604 or any similar legislation, which would make it a Federal crime to knowingly transfer, transport, or receive an official insignia or article of clothing, including a badge, emblem, or identification card, of a Federal, State, or local government employee in interstate or foreign commerce.

Identity theft and fraud are among the fastest growing crimes Nationwide. The false impersonation of public safety and first responder personnel through the misuse of government badges, insignia, and uniforms is a particularly dangerous threat to the public's safety and homeland security. This is because Internet commerce and advances in technology make it all too easy for criminals and terrorists to obtain genuine or fake identification cards, badges, or uniforms of public employees.

H.R. 3604, which was introduced on July 28, 2005, is similar to AB 1153, a County-sponsored bill, which the Governor signed into law last year to make it a State crime in California to make, sell, or transfer unauthorized state and local employee badges and identification cards. AB 1153 was broadly supported by the State and local law enforcement community and encountered no opposition. As a result, it passed the Legislature without any "no" votes in committee or on the floor or either house.

September 28, 2005
Page 2

We, therefore, urge once again that you support H.R. 2604 to protect against the misuse of government badges, insignia, and clothing. Thank you for your assistance on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

GLORIA MOLINA
CHAIR
SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT

YVONNE B. BURKE
SUPERVISOR, 2ND DISTRICT

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
SUPERVISOR, 3RD DISTRICT

DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
SUPERVISOR, 5TH DISTRICT

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS
Executive Officer



September 28, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Violet Varona-Lukens
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER**

As instructed by your Board, enclosed is a five-signature letter to each member of the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation requesting their support for House Resolution 3604 (Slaughter), or similar legislation, which would make it a Federal crime to knowingly transfer, transport, or receive an official insignia or article of clothing, including a badge, emblem, or identification card, of a Federal, State, or local government employee in interstate or foreign commerce.

Your earliest attention to this matter would be appreciated. Please have your Secretary contact Sylvia Villalobos in the Minutes/Communications Section at extension 41444, for circulation to the next Board Office.

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Enclosure